

HSE Strategy – 6 themes



Comments placed on YouTube relating to the address by Dame Judith Hackitt DBE at the HSE Strategy conference in Glasgow on 18 January 2016:

“A truly motivational address by Dame Judith. My comments relate principally to the Mineral Products industry, where the UK leads H&S thinking in Europe and, indeed, globally. As retired H&S Director for the Mineral Products Association, I now act as part-time 'Special Advisor - Health & Safety' to the MPA, whilst representing the industry in Europe and beyond. My brief comments on each of the 6 themes are as follows:

ACTING TOGETHER requires the involvement of all in the supply chain, not just the producers and users, we - including the HSE - need to embrace the designers of plant & equipment, i.e. the manufacturers who supply us the kit that we use and maintain, day in, day out, and in many instances for several decades. Designers must share the responsibilities for health & safety. HSE has a role to play in facilitating their presence at the table of partnership.

TACKLING ILL HEALTH has to have even greater emphasis than 'safety' in order to catch up on the legacy of past under-performance. An example is the setting of 'lead indicators of OH'. All organisations - without exception - should set the achievement and maintenance of "Zero Harm" as their realistic goal. This requires zero damage to occupational health, as well as zero injuries.

MANAGING RISK WELL means not only avoiding the trivial by optimising our focus and outcomes, it also means treating the health & safety of our contractors and visitors with the same care that we treat our direct employees.

SUPPORTING SMALL EMPLOYERS needs to be of fundamental importance to any trade association. In the Mineral Products Association, despite around 75% of quarry products being produced by just four multinationals, SMEs account for 50% of 'best practice' submissions to the MPA's annual H&S Awards Scheme now in its 30th year. MPA is a past winner of RoSPA's prestigious "SME Assistance Trophy".

KEEPING PACE WITH CHANGE is admirably demonstrated by the MPA's dedicated H&S website, www.Safequarry.com with its 'auto-alerts' and recently-launched Apps. Such is the success of "Safequarry.com" that it is renowned & respected globally. Tripartite bodies such as the "Quarries Partnership Team", chaired by the HSE, have opted to have their online activities hosted by Safequarry.com such is their confidence in its success.

SHARING OUR SUCCESS encourages us all to abandon any 'silos' that may exist, be they local, regional, national, or even European. We need to share globally what is best, but equally be prepared to listen globally to what is best from beyond our shores. The provenance of good ideas and innovations is unimportant – it's the sharing, the learning and the implementing that counts!

Martin Isles, 27 January 2016